



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

JUN 26 2009

Open Letter to All Potential Applicants Under the FY 2010 Talent Search and Educational Opportunity Centers Competitions

Dear Colleague:

This letter is to inform you that the planned Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 Talent Search (TS) and Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) competitions have been delayed for a year until FY 2011.

As you may be aware, the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) amended the Higher Education Act of 1965 to add several new provisions and requirements for the Federal TRIO Programs. Specifically, the HEOA includes new provisions for the TS and EOC Programs. The U.S. Department of Education (Department) is currently preparing proposed regulations for the Federal TRIO Programs to reflect the statutory changes. Significant changes to the regulations are likely. Therefore, the Department has decided to delay issuing notices inviting applications for new TS and EOC awards from FY 2010 until FY 2011 in order to accommodate the time needed for the development and publication of final regulations. The Department believes it is equally important to give current grantees and new applicants time to understand the HEOA changes to the programs.

To accommodate the delay in the competitive process, the Secretary has invoked the authority contained in the HEOA to make a one-time extension to the current TS and EOC grant award periods to synchronize the grant periods. That is, the grant end date for all currently-funded TS and EOC projects with end dates in 2010 will be extended one year to August 31, 2011. Although this extension will not synchronize the grant periods for all currently-funded TS and EOC projects, by delaying the TS and EOC competitions just one year beyond the typical four-year cycle, potential new applicants will not find themselves in a position of having to wait another three to four years to submit applications. You can find updated information on the status of the competition on our Web site at: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/index.html> and clicking under "What's New."

Thank you for your continued interest in the Federal TRIO Programs. We look forward to working with you as we move forward with the TS and EOC competitions.

Sincerely,

/s/

Daniel T. Madzelan
Delegated the Authority to Perform
the Functions and Duties of the
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